

House Resolution 1481

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7th, Jones of the 46th, Keen of the 179th, Porter of the 143rd, Willard of the 49th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the late Thomas B. Murphy and providing for a ceremony for the unveiling of the
2 official portrait of Speaker Murphy; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the late Thomas B. Murphy will always be a giant in the history of Georgia and
4 a legendary figure in the Georgia State Capitol, where he served in the House of
5 Representatives during the terms of five Governors from 1961 through January of 2003; and
6 during that period he served continuously as Speaker of the House from December 19, 1973,
7 making him the longest serving Speaker in the history of Georgia and, for many years, the
8 longest serving active presiding officer in any state legislature; and

9 WHEREAS, Honorable Thomas B. Murphy was born in Bremen, Georgia, on March 10,
10 1924; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphy graduated from Bremen High School in 1941 and North Georgia
12 College in 1943; and

13 WHEREAS, he served with valor and distinction in the United States Navy in World War
14 II from 1943 to 1946 and upon his return from military service attended the University of
15 Georgia Law School and graduated in 1949; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Murphy was a man of honor, a leading light of the Georgia Bar, an untiring
17 advocate for the State of Georgia and its citizens, highly respected by both his political allies
18 and his political opponents, and above all else a man of church and family; and

19 WHEREAS, by the passage of HR 1856, adopted at the 2006 session of the General
20 Assembly, there was authorized the placement of a portrait of Speaker Murphy on the third
21 floor of the Capitol Building in a location on the House side of the building to be determined
22 by the Speaker of the House; and

23 WHEREAS, Speaker Murphy's family have graciously agreed to make available for this
24 purpose a portrait in their possession; and

25 WHEREAS, March 10, 2010, will mark the 86th anniversary of the birth of this great
26 Georgian.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 March 10, 2010, shall be a day dedicated to honoring the late Thomas B. Murphy, the
29 Speaker of this House for many, many years and a beloved friend of many of its current and
30 former members.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that on March 10, 2010, at a time to be appointed by the
32 presiding officer, there shall be held on the floor of the House of Representatives an
33 appropriate ceremony for the unveiling of the portrait of Speaker Murphy which will be
34 placed in the Capitol.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the family of Speaker Murphy and former members of
36 the House who served with Speaker Murphy are invited to the chamber of the House of
37 Representatives to attend and participate in the unveiling ceremony.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of the late
40 Speaker Thomas B. Murphy.